CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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Message to the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament from the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. Harold Wilson

The 1967 Session of the E.N.D.C. will be of critical importance. I believe that we have now reached the point at which, given the political will, a Treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons can be negotiated soon. This is the most urgent of the Committee's tasks.

Such an agreement, however, cannot stand on its own. If, as I hope, the Committee's negotiations result in a non-proliferation treaty, this must spur it on to new endeavours. I believe that progress is possible in two most important areas. The first is that of a complete test ban; the second, real progress to more general disarmament, particularly in nuclear weapons. Dangerous tendencies now exist which could lead the world into a new arms race. It must be the Committee's objective to halt these tendencies and to begin the pressing task of reducing nuclear stocks and conventional forces, so that the world can devote a higher proportion of its resources to the problems of hunger and inequality.

In seeking these objectives the Committee will have the full support of the United Kingdom. I send it my best wishes for a fruitful Session.

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